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ARENT FOR PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER COMPANY.

KAMEHAMEHA THE CONQUEROR.

SKETCHES BY WALTER M. GIBSON

CHAPTER II.

FIRMNESS UNDER FIRE.

Kamehameha attracted attention now, as on the occasion of a former visit, by his proud and confident bearing. Though he was an ignorant barbarian, yet his strong masterful manbood asserted itself all the time. He was formed for calm observation amid the shock of battles. On this occasion some practise with cannon took place. It may be that the commander ordered a discharge of guns in order to astonish and intimidate the natives. We can imagine the curiosity of Kamehameha and his companions examining these ponderous dark tubes; and possibly there were some shining brass ones. A stout sailor sponges out the piece. Another one inserts a powder cartridge. And on this occasion, the natives must have noticed some loose powder, spoken of as the black sand of their first corious observation. The cartridge is rammed home; and then a ball of iron, which has excited numberless expressions of barbarous interest. And now a sailor approaches with a small cord in his hand, which shows a small sparkling ignition at one end. The man blows slightly on the lighted him ruled; and only humane foreign officers like end, livening up the sparkle and the glow, and | Cook, Vancouver, and Kotzebue have visited these applying it to the small aperture at the breach of the gun, there follows a terrible bang, flash and cloud of smoke; so surprising and stunning to these ignorant and unconscious observers, that some shrink back, some fall down prostrate, and all are moved and agitated; -all except Kamehameha, who stood firm and erect; -not heeding this startling and unexpected explosion, and not losing his self possession, although in the presence of new and terrible forces, whose extent and

under his feet. However, though Kamehameha was not outwardly moved by the exhibition of strange and startling things; yet his intelligent spirit was Sugar Factors and Commission Agents, strongly aroused in observing these evidences of skill and power in the hands of the wonderful strangers. Their great ships were such wonders; with the great sails, the complicated cordage, the blocks and gearing of all kinds, the governing belm, and the great guns, the small arms, and the bright flashing bayonets and cutlasses. How puny were Hawaiian canoes, paddles, and wooden and bone lances alongside the powerful structures and instruments of the strangers!

power he could not determine; like a great

soul, that under any circumstances is never

surprised; and would maintain his dignity of

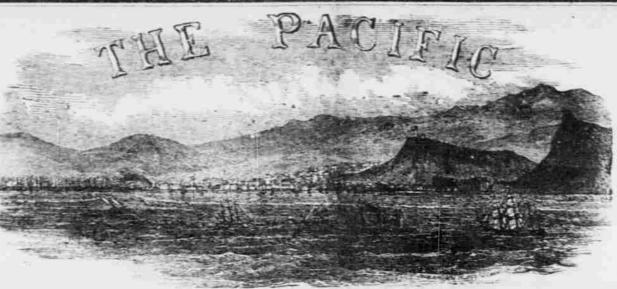
manhood, though a world were breaking up

A strong mind like that of Kamehameha seeking and desiring control of his fellow men, must have been powerfully awakened by the wonders now presented to him. He got glimpses of the wonderful world that lay beyond his islands, and if be did not fear, he deeply respected the new powers of man presented to his gaze. And a spirit of inquiry and profound observation continued with Kamehameha. He was not a thoughtless barbarian warrior like Kiana, Kameeaumoku and many other Hawaiian chiefs of his time; who sometimes fewed, and sometimes hated and fought the power of the white strangers. Kamehameha always respected the white foreigners, and never feared or hated them. He studied like a wise man to learn the secrets of their power. and he was a quick scholar; for although at the time spoken of when he was about 24 years of age, he was a wondering barbarian on board the ship of war of the great English Navigator, he in a few years afterwards, superintended himself, like a Peter of the Pacific, the building of sea going vessels, that carried great guns, which he himself could handle. Yes, Kamehameha became a ship builder for the benefit of his nation; and more remarkable in this character, considering his opportunities, than was a Czar Peter of Russia learning to build ships in the well appointed ship yards, of Holland and of England.

It is not necessary to dwell on the particulars of the visit of Kalaniopuu and his chiefs on board the ship of the English Discoverer Cook. They were entertained courteously, and returned with gifts on hand; and it is stated by foreign and native authorities that Kamehameha remained behind on this occasion, and that this was the time when after remaining all night on board the ship, his absence was bewailed by the people on shore. But this is of no consequence; the point of interest to note, is that Kamehameha attracted the attention of Cook; and the Commander and the Conqueror that was to be, established relations of mutual regard and amity. The old unbiassed chroniclers of Maui and Lanai, say that there was aloha between Kamehameba and Lono; (Cook), and the particulars that can be presented in connection with the death of the navigator, go far to support this statement.

LAHAINA AND VICINITY.

But let us glance along the shore of Maui, whose people then observed the ships of the Discoverer, and who had alternately obeyed Kehekili and Kalaniopuu. The town of the Labaina was then the most honored and the most populous among all the kulanakauhales or towns in the Hawaiian Islands. There was a continuous line of well thatched houses along the shore, from Ukumehame, and Olowalu, to Kaanapali, an extent of six miles; and a throng of buts lay inland, all embowered amid beautiful groves, of candle nut (kukui) trees, and lofty cocoanut palms. The abodes of the chiefs were canopied over by the stately and umbrageous kou trees. These trees were regarded as sacred to the chiefs; and it is a curious and impressive coincidence to the Huwaiian mind, that when the kou trees all died out, as happened in Lahaina, the chiefs had all passed away. But at this time, the kou-tree spread his ample leafy honors, and rich orange colored blossoms, and Hawaiian chiefs flourished beneath their shade. And the kanaka then was strong and healthful who sat beneath the ulu, the breadfruit, and the nin, the cocoanut palm. There were more than ten thousand Hawaiians in those days, in, or belonging to La-hains. The streams of Kapoulu and of Launipoko then watered more than a thousand taro patches, which fed bountcously the people. The great poi boards of koa wood, were to be seen beneath the shade of almost every tree; and a stout kanaka squatting down by the board, with stone pestle in hand, was making the air resound, with his busy pounding of a mass of Patronage Solicited, Commissions Moderate. ap9.81.1y.



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due, or rosy tinted taro. Or he was busy per-

forming the waile, or mingling of the pounded taro with water in some huge calabash, and form-

ing liquid poi, the name being derived from 'the

poi, or cover of the calabash, which soft nutri-

tious diet helped to form stont and noble limbed

men and women. Then the calabashes were

allways full; and the fat hogs were constantly in

the imu, or earth oven. And bananas were plen-

tiful, fruit bushes, such as poha, and ohelo,

covered the slopes of Paupau the ki leaf

quivered everywhere in the ravines; and no man,

woman, or child was poor in those days, and

Those were times to suit a contented people.

Then the young men, as well as the old men

toiled in the taro patches and in the sea, so that

there was always plenty for the people and the

chiefs. You could then have bought the labor of

a man, or a large pig for a value like a tenpenny

nail, and now it would require many hundreds

of tenpenny nails to buy the labor of a man for a

day, or a pig of very small size. And the people

had so much more when values were so much less.

But the people then were ignorant, subject to the

caprice of chiefs without law, and liable to be

lesolated by eavage wars. And as Kamehameha

established general peace and law throughout the

Archipelago, and made civilization and a consti-

tutional kingdom possible. Let us follow the life

of this remarkable Hawaiian barbarian who saw

and felt that his native islands were invaded by

new ideas and appliances, that were going to

change the order of all things in the Archipelago;

who wanted to meet and accomodate himself to

the inevitable; and who did so wisely. And

happy would it have been for the kingdom he

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yet they had no money.

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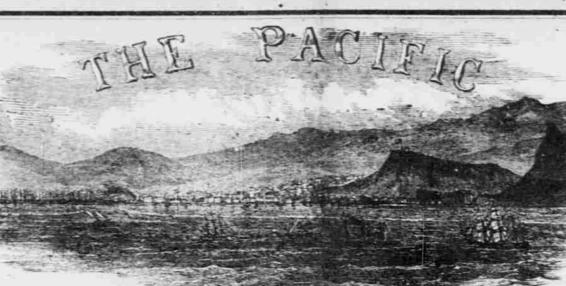
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